

***The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*** anticipates awarding a five-year, fixed rate, blanket purchase agreement for technical specialists as outlined in the Performance Work Statement (PWS) below. This notice is a Request For Information (RFI) **ONLY**. EPA would like industry to review the approach and feasibility of the PWS and provide comments. ***EPA intends to review the comments from industry and issue a formal Request for Quotation (RFQ) for commercial services, as identified herein, using simplified acquisition procedures.***

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:**

### **EXPANDING THE INDUSTRY BASE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ***Performance Work Statement (PWS)*** is to establish a single, comprehensive approach that enhances EPA's ability to manage and strengthen the emergency response program. The objective is to identify as many professional arenas and specialized expertise that the agency does not possess, but due to economic reality, it is not feasible for the Agency to support full time. ***These technical services shall provide knowledge and support services to the EPA On-Scene-Coordinator (OSC) in the field during a routine or non-routine emergency response incident.***

#### **BACKGROUND**

Due to the need for use of EPA Regional infrastructures to support response efforts to major environmental incident or Homeland Security situations, ***it is expected that an Area Command under the Incident Command System will be established to support field incident command operations.*** As such, these support positions will be filled with the experts and professionals identified in the scope of work, which will allow the OSCs to focus their efforts on actual field work.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

***Specialists and experts shall be able to provide support for a wide range of terrorist events. Specialists should be able to provide any type of support within their respective field which may be needed to aid the EPA during an emergency response event.*** When the specific incident occurs, EPA will issue a purchase order, under the BPA, as the tasking document to the specialist which provides incident specific details and mission requirements. The performance period for the ***BPA*** will be 2 to 5 years and the specialists shall be required to have a response time no greater than 24 hours.

- The emergency response incident may require the Agency to obtain a specialist with the specific expertise to address the field situation appropriately, efficiently and effectively.

- The incident can be of national significance or of regional significance which will trigger Stafford Act or non-Stafford Act funding.
- The untimeliness of these incidents requires quick response by the Agency to help protect lives, public health, safety, property, and the environment, and to reduce impacts to the citizens of this country and region. Therefore, a more simplified and efficient contracting mechanism is an essential element if EPA's mission is to be implemented successfully.
- The ability to contract specific experts as necessary will enable the agency to provide proactive and integrated response to an ***emergency incident*** in a timely manner to achieve the agency's mission.
- ESF #10 provides for a coordinated response to hazardous material releases by incorporating the response mechanism of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). This includes appropriate response actions to prevent, minimize, or mitigate a threat to the public health, welfare and/or the environment.
- Under an activation where EPA chairs ESF #10, the region will be responsible for coordinating, integrating, and managing the overall federal efforts to detect, identify, contain, short and long-term clean up, dispose of or minimize release of oil or hazardous substance, or prevent, mitigate or minimize the threat of potential release. In addition, where EPA is not the chair to ESF #10, EPA will likely be tasked with providing expertise on environmental effects of oil, discharge or release of hazardous substance, pollutants, or contaminants and environmental pollution control techniques.
- Initial assessment is a means to obtain first-hand information on the severity of the major environment event or homeland security situation and the impact upon areas over which EPA has responsibility, either as Primary Agency for ESF#10 or as support agency for other ESFs. This information will be used to forecast the short and long term resource needs and to identify areas which require outside assistance through the use of other regions or contractors. In addition, information obtained will assist the Region in developing the management structure of follow up teams or the following operational period.

## SCOPE

EPA anticipates technical specialists may come from the following areas: academia, independent research organizations, nonprofit organizations, private industries, local, state, and federal agencies. All of the technical specialists must have accreditation from a national organization of their prospective field of expertise. The services that are potentially required may include work and strategy plan development; professional consultation and guidance to EPA; professional investigation and/or research information; research development; report writing and data collections; sampling, monitoring, and modeling activities; drafting and constructing plans; physical labor; site work or oversight; and formulate checklist and/or procedures. All technical specialists will supply their own personal protective equipment/gear as it relates to their area of

expertise.

- **Technical Specialists Anticipated:**

Archaeological	Historical/Cultural Properties	Aviation Services
Scientific Technology	Biological Technology	Construction Industry
Computer Technology	Telecommunication Technology	Account Expertise
Statistician	Information/Data Management	Weather Expertise
Research and Development	Scientific Modeling/Monitoring	Inventory Expertise
Business Management	Chemical Technology	Physics expertise
Asbestos Expertise	Heavy Metal Expertise	Epidemiology
Cancer Expertise	Occupational Health Expertise	CISM Expertise
Risk Assessor Expertise	Architectural Expertise	Geological Expertise
Plumbing Expertise	Electrical Expertise	Professional Engineer
Professional Geologist	Industrial Hygienist	Radiation Expertise
Nuclear Waste	Nuclear Weapons	

- In cases where there may be advanced knowledge of the potential natural disaster event, such as prior to an onset of a hurricane, it may be appropriate to pre-deploy an initial assessment team and to put the Regional Response Center (RRC) on alert.
- Proactive contracting will provide the agency with the flexibility and quick response to implement its mission successfully.
- The pre-contractual agreements for services allow EPA to have choice selections without the high cost of emergency contracts. The agency could provide the most advanced up to date technology, research, resources' development, and information in some specialized fields. The agency's ability to have at its finger tips the renowned leader and leadership, ensures the agency's ability to act responsibly, effectively, and efficiently.
- The government intends to issue multiple awards for each Technical Specialist Category in order to have more than one source available if an incident should occur.

***Vendors are asked to comment on the feasibility, and whether it is possible to provide pricing information based on the information contained in this PWS. Vendors should also provide any other comments they feel are relevant.***

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**All questions should be directed to David M. Murphy by 4:00 P.M. on August 13, 2004. Answers to all questions and comments regarding this RFI will be posted on this website on August 20, 2004.**

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***Note:** All mail sent to EPA via US Postal Service is irradiated prior to delivery; anticipate 2-3 weeks for delivery and damage similar to exposure to high heat.*

**NO PHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED**